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THE 7PWE  
**SHEKEL**

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Israel Transportation

A Bicentennial Medal

AINA's New Year's Tokens

Hasmonean Coinage

Palestine Currency: 500 Mils

Israel's Newest Issues

World War I Relief Token

Club News



*Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION*



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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

*THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.*

*THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.*

*THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.*

*Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.*



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to report that after much effort we have readied our numismatic medal that will excite and delight all members of AINA; and it's yours when we confirm that you have renewed your AINA membership. We

have struck in Israel an AINA New Year medal with the *Star of David* design of the 27th Independence Day coin and with AINA's logo and the date. It will be mailed together with the IGCAM New York token so that you will have a valuable and memorable memento of your membership this year.

This 30 mm. cupro-nickel medal is struck for A.I.N.A. by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, and depicts, on the obverse, the same design as the Corporation's 1976 greetings medal stylized *Star of David*,

(Continued on Page 32)



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## ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION COLLECTORS: WHERE ARE YOU?

by Alan R. Weinberg, AINA LM29

Another name for Israel transportation is: *sleeper*. Look at any Israel numismatic guide or auction catalog and you'll probably see *Eshed* or *Ham-kasher* or older tickets.

But what of the current tickets and passes of the last few years? For *Transportation* collectors, Israel is a dream. Walking through the streets of Israel, be it Haifa, Tel Aviv or any town with a bus stop, just look around. It was this experience which started my collecting.

The two largest bus cooperatives in Israel are the *Egged* and the *Dan*, the *Egged* being the larger. Their origins start at the end of World War I with the Jewish Army veterans who bought some vehicles from the British Army. They began by transporting cargo and passengers between the different Jewish settlements. 1924 was the year when drivers began to form groups:

*Hanetz*, *Khaver* and *Hanegev* are a few that were organized that year. By 1929, these groups merged into the first co-operatives, *Yehuda* and *Darom*. More groups formed as the years went by and there were many mergers. This article is a brief introduction to all Israel transportation.

### *Israelis Travel by Bus*

The most common bus tickets that I found (when in Israel on the *AINA Study Tour*) were the tickets used within one city, or intra-city tickets as I will call them. *Figure 1* is of the *Egged*; *Figure 2* is of the *Dan*.

The *Egged*, largest bus coop also had the largest variety of tickets. Several of the different denominations of the intra city tickets are shown. The *Dan* tickets though not as plentiful are more colorful. The 30 agorot ticket is orange on white; 15 and 45 are blue





Figure 1



Figure 2

on white; and the 10, 25 and 60 are green on white. *Figure 3* are inter-city tickets of which a few are shown. The bottom row shows 7 boxes; while the top two are cancelled as to AM or PM, the bottom are cancelled as to day of the week on which the ticket is being used. *Figure 4* is of some of the other tickets. *Ctr.: Dan Transfer; bot.: Egged 10-ride Student Ticket, 20-ride Discount Ticket.* Note that only a very small part of the different types and denominations of the tickets are shown.

### *Train Tickets Tell a Story*

Before 1948, one could travel by train from what is now Israel to Turkey, Europe as well as all over the Mid-East. Today Israel is cut off by rail from the lands of Europe by the hostile neighbors who surround her. There is a line that runs from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as well as a couple of other lines. *Figure 5* shows only two of the many tickets and passes that abound. *L. to R.:* The yellow is a reserved seat ticket, while the green ticket is a regular one-way ticket.



Figure 3

Both come in several denominations, the green ticket being the more common.

### *... And in the Air*

One of the more interesting of the Transportation companies in Israel is *El Al*. Numismatically and historically, I have found more variety in its operations than in the other companies. From her first flight till the present time, the more I read about her, the more I wanted to read. I have traveled several times to Israel on the *AINA Study Tours* so naturally I have seen recent tickets. But what of the early tickets? A collectors dream, if you can find one. Or how about early claim tickets, or whatever? Excluding tickets, I have also obtained a wide variety of celluloid buttons and pins used in promoting *El Al*, something further of Transportation-related collectables.

*Figure 6* shows a few of the *El Al* pins that were given to passengers.

Israel has more than one airline. *Figure 7* shows a pin from the *Arkia* airline which flies only within Israel.



Figure 4

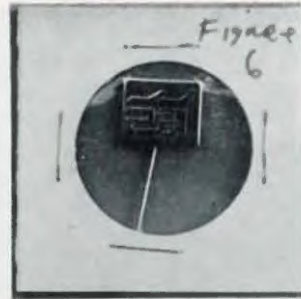


Figure 6



Figure 7

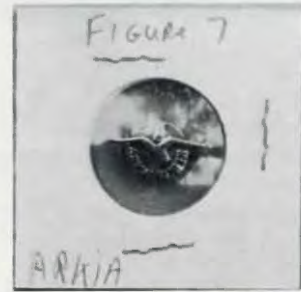


Figure 5

### Don't Read on if You Get Seasick

Ever hear of the Zim Lines? Well, if you're interested, Zim is the shipping line which once served passengers as well as freight. Now they only do freight. I have not seen a ticket for passengers and I wonder what kind of pins or insignias the crews wore.



Figure 8

Shown in Figure 8 is an interesting item: the baggage tags when Zim carried passengers. One side shows the date (1970). I wonder if there are other tickets with other dates?



Oh, well; *more* research. The other side also has the date as well as space for information on destination, sailing date, etc.

### *There's More: Cable Cars!*

There's more to Israel than the planes, boats, buses and trains. After leaving the cable car at Masada, people on the AINA tour gave me their ticket stubs. It was then that I realized that the Masada air-lift to the fortress-palace is also a form of transportation. *Figure 9* shows three of the stubs; I know of several different more. Why the difference in prices? I do not know; but that's one of the joys of collecting: *research*. From *L. to R.*: a 6-pound blue ticket, 5-pound pink ticket with another stub attached; and a yellow 4-pound ticket, also with two stubs attached.



*Figure 9*

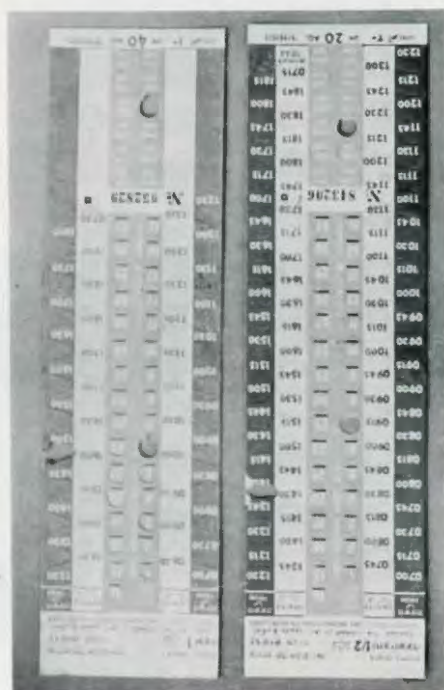
Accidentally, while walking through Tel Aviv I came across what is shown in *Figure 10*. These are parking cards for use in parking lots. Interestingly, they (by use of punches) show the *month, day and time* when you are to leave. Interestingly, the instructions are in Hebrew on the *reverse*, while the *obverse* is in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

Israel's transportation will be of interest to transportation buffs, but also to historians as well as military numismatic item collectors. Israel's trains, buses, planes and ships play an important part in her survival. Besides carrying men and supplies, some of these companies are her only link physically with the outside world when other plane and ship companies refuse to fly or sail to her during a war or threat of war.

*Cont. on page 27*



*Figure 10*



*Figure 11*

## FIVE DIES NEEDED FOR NEW YEARS TOKENS

by Martin Morgenstern

In *The Shekel*, (Winter, 1974) Sylvia Haffner reported that the 1975 IGCMC New Years Token had a misspelling in the word "Greetings". The second "e" was changed to an "a" (figure 1). The IGCMC stopped the distribution in the U.S.A. and changed the obverse die.

Not only did IGCMC change the obverse die, they also completely changed the reverse of the die (figure 2). At a quick glance they appear to be similar.

Closer inspection reveals that the *menora* is larger on the revised issue and is also closer to the edge or the rim.

The "Israel Government Coins and Medals Co." was changed to "Israel Govt Coins and Medals Corp." In the second version, the word "govern-

ment" is changed to "govt" and "co" is changed to "corp." IGCMC enlarged the letters on the second issue.

The Israel Govt Coins and Medals Corp and the year 1975 in English and Hebrew are raised whereas in the original issue, they are incused or debossed.

The semi-circular lines on the two coins are different. On the original coin the lines in the year 1975 are closer to the *menora* than the latter issue.

On the original coin two dies were used and on the second issue they also used two dies.

AINA issued 5,300 coins to members. All received the type II variety. In addition, IGCMC made a member-



Sketch of 1975 shows designer's error: "Greetings".



Tokens  
are  
enlarged  
from  
30mm size  
to show  
details.

ship coin on the obverse (figure 3). The reverse is the same as type two reverse. This means five dies were used to make the IGCAM 1975 New Years Token. The obverse of the coin shows the emblem of AINA in raised letters. The English year 1975 and the date 5735, in Hebrew are also raised. The words "American Israel Numismatic Association" are incused or debossed.

All three coins are made of cupronickel. All have a smooth rim, not a milled edge. The coins are 30 mm. in size. All three types must be considered a part of the series of New Years tokens needed to complete the set.

Top to  
bottom:  
AINA and  
IGCAM  
reverse;  
IGCAM  
obverse;  
AINA  
obverse.



## NEW MEDAL COMMEMORATES NEW HADASSAH U. HOSPITAL



In 1912 a group of American women, inspired by Henrietta Szold of Baltimore, Maryland (1860-1945) created the *Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization*. Within a year, they were providing the inhabitants of Jerusalem with social and medical services. In less than five years, Hadassah hospitals were caring for the sick in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias and Safad. With its motto, "*Healing of my people*", Hadassah pioneered medical services in Palestine.

Hadassah's activities were many and varied and were constantly widening in scope. The Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus was inaugurated in 1939 and it soon became known as the most up-to-date and the best equipped hospital in this part of the world.

In November of 1947, the United States General Assembly voted for the partition of Palestine, and the creation of the Jewish and Arab State. The access to Mount Scopus became increasingly dangerous at this time due to military force and terrorist attacks by the Arabs and it soon became clear that the hospital on Mount Scopus would have to be evacuated and the patients transferred. On May 8, 1948 the last members of the Hadassah medical teams were evacuated from Mount Scopus.

In the Six-Day War in 1967, Jerusalem was once more re-united and the siege of Mount Scopus was lifted. On the third day of the war Hadassah leaders raised the flag on Mount Scopus and proclaimed "*The raising*

*of this flag symbolizes what will be built here — a bridge from the past to the future. This is a flag of the war against ignorance and disease, a flag of peace. As we raise this flag, we take a vow — the hospital will return here. Hadassah will live again*".

A new hospital has now been built on Mount Scopus. It has been planned with the latest achievements in medical practice, teaching and research in all branches. Its medical equipment will be of a standard that will meet the needs of a hospital of the 1980's. Hadassah made a vow and kept it. The hospital is opening its doors again on Mount Scopus — a bridge from the past to the future.

### *Description of the Medal:*

**OBVERSE:** The new building of the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus. In the centre of the graphic depiction, above the entrance arcade to the Hospital, the three domes typifying the old buildings. On the right hand, the beginning of the verse, Haggai, II, 9, in Hebrew: *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former.* Along the lower rim runs a shortened English version: *Greater the latter glory than the former.*

**REVERSE:** The emblem of Hadassah in the center of a spiral relief, with the date 1975 in Arabic numerals on the left and the Hebrew letters for 5336 on the right. Running along the rim, in Hebrew above and in English below, the inscription: *Hadassah University Hospital Mount Scopus.*





*Time out for shopping on AINA Study Tour*

## **AINA EIGHTH STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL INCLUDES FIRST-TIME EVER TOUR GROUP FLIGHT FROM HAIFA TO EILAT**

The best known numismatic tour in the world, the AINA Annual Study Tour to Israel, has been scheduled for its eighth visit to the Holy Land during March 11 through the 25th, 1976 announced Morris Bram, president of the organization.

"We are now in daily contact with AINA clubs and family groups who wish to be included in the 1976 tour," said Mr. Bram, who pointed out that a \$100.00 per person check made out now to AINA reserved a seat in the party.

"We feel very fortunate in being able to offer highest quality accommodations for all those days, plus dinner and breakfast daily, all daily tours AND a flight to Eilat and a tour through the Negev in this most unusual tour plan, all for \$1,099.00. Since this includes major social functions

and formal dinners with the numismatic elite of Israel, this is a wonderful bargain for a trip which could never be duplicated by any travel agent.

"Most advertising for trips to Israel does not point out that meals are extra in most cases. No tour group has the day-by-day adventure planning which the AINA tour provides. Our leisure days are confined to the Sabbath days during the trip," said Mr. Bram.

Special low cost rates for flights from American cities to New York have been arranged; write for details.

Departure is on Thursday, March 11 from New York City. A full brochure explaining the day by day activities is available from AINA, P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N. Y. 11365.

## 500 MILS NOTES ISSUED BY THE PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD

By Jack H. Fisher, NLG

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Collectors, dealers and researchers since publication of my articles pertaining to the Palestine Currency Board 100 pound notes, 50 pound notes, 10 pounds notes, 5 pounds notes and one pound notes request information pertaining to my research over the past 10 years period as it pertains to the 500 mils notes and related information. Information was difficult to obtain on the 500 mils notes and on the 100 pounds notes, the 50 pounds notes, the 10 pounds notes, the 5 pounds notes and the one pound notes. Information received from government sources was to the effect that records were not preserved as to dates of issue, quantity issued and notes that were cancelled and destroyed were not recorded relative to issue dates.

The history of the 500 mils notes commences with the year 1924. A study made by a committee appointed by the high commissioner of Palestine submitted a report which proposed the appointment of a currency board. It would supervise a Palestine currency based on the pound sterling with sterling securities held in London to secure all currency placed in circulation.

The committee suggested a recommended counting unit of small value to the pound sterling to retain the value of a decimal system. The *Palestine Currency Board* was constituted. The members and secretary were appointed by a minute of the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated June 15, 1926, and the unit adopted was the Palestine pound to be equal in value to the British pound sterling, plus being divided into 1,000 mils.

The determination of the board was that the notes to be issued be in the denominations of 500 mils, one pound, five pounds, 10 pounds, 50 pounds and 100 pounds. The 500 mils note was determined to have as pictorial representations on the obverse the Tomb of Rachael near Hebron and the reverse a representation of the Citadel in Jerusalem. It was also determined that the size of the note be 127 by 76 millimeters with obverse colors purple and green and reverse color of purple.

Official records of the issue dates of 500 mils notes have been pursued for many years without success, and it is likely such records are just not available. The list of 500 mils notes compiled to date represent all dates located and verified by the author to date. The listing is as follows:

September 1, 1927  
September 20, 1929  
April 20, 1939  
August 15, 1945

The questions submitted by individuals interested in the 500 mils notes range from the number of notes in circulation at specific times during the Mandate to the number of notes still outstanding and the value of such notes in various grades as collector items. The first question consists of the notes in circulation from the first year of issue (1927) to the termination of the board in 1952 plus official figures as to outstanding notes as of 1966.

The amount of 500 mils notes in circulation for each year from 1927 through 1952 from official records is set forth as follows in Palestine pounds.



March 31, 1928	206,000	pounds
March 31, 1929	161,769	pounds
March 31, 1930	153,577	pounds
March 31, 1931	104,385	pounds
March 31, 1932	117,779	pounds
March 31, 1933	181,679	pounds
March 31, 1934	254,645	pounds
March 31, 1935	297,599	pounds
March 31, 1936	295,609.500	pounds
March 31, 1937	301,909	pounds
March 31, 1938	298,509	pounds
March 31, 1939	384,854	pounds
March 31, 1940	477,825	pounds
March 31, 1941	639,717	pounds
March 31, 1942	705,698	pounds
March 31, 1943	1,125,205.500	pounds
March 31, 1944	932,056.500	pounds
March 31, 1945	712,049	pounds
March 31, 1946	843,543.500	pounds
March 31, 1947	854,956	pounds
March 31, 1948	936,405.500	pounds
March 31, 1949	589,362	pounds
March 31, 1950	172,445	pounds
March 31, 1951	105,263	pounds
March 31, 1952	68,533	pounds

It is interesting to note that the latest information concerning the amount of 500 mils notes in circulation as of May 30, 1974 was only 65,431 pounds as compared to 206,000 pounds in the 1928 fiscal year of the Palestine Currency Board. Official government sources stated that the theoretical amount of 500 mils notes outstanding as of May 31, 1974 was 65,431 pounds or a theoretical approximate 130,862 500 mils notes.

This official source stated: "*It must be emphasized that the figures can have little practical significance by*

*now, as a great deal of the notes shown as theoretically outstanding must have been destroyed from one cause or another.*"

It is also to be noted that the *Palestine Currency Board* notes continued to be redeemed from 1966 up to and including 1975. The author's personal collection contains 500 mils notes of all four verified dates, 1927, 1929, 1939 and 1945. There are only a few 1927 500 mils notes known to me to be in collections.

There appears to be sufficient 500 mils notes in circulated condition bearing the 1929, 1939 and 1945 dates to enable interested collectors to obtain such notes in circulated condition, but it is my opinion that such notes in uncirculated condition are quite difficult to obtain. The 1927 500 mils note is, in my opinion, quite rare.

The author and many others are interested in verifying all known 1927 500 mils notes in the possession of collectors or dealers. Information concerning the above plus information as to known redemptions, destruction by fire or other casualty of any 500 mils notes is also of great interest. It is requested that such information be transmitted to Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49006, U.S.A.



*Paper money issued in Palestine 1924 included this 500 mils note.*

## 1976 HANNUKAH AND PIDYON HA'BEN COINS ANNOUNCED



10 Lirot 1976 Hannukah Coin



25 Lirot 1976 Pidyon Ha'Ben Coin

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation announced the striking of the Hannukah and Pidyon Ha'Ben coins.

### *Hanukka 1975 (Festival of Lights)*

A newly designed IL 10 silver coin in Brilliant Uncirculated and Proof condition depicting an 18th Century oil lamp from Holland. Maximum figures are as follows: *Brilliant Uncirculated* — 67,500 (in comparison with 74,500 last year); and *Proof* — 50,000 (in comparison with 58,900 last year).

### *Pidyon Haben 1976 (Redemption of the First Born)*

The graphic design of the 1976 Pidyon Haben coin has been completely

changed and new collector interest is anticipated. The coin has a face value of IL 25 and will be minted in two varieties: *Brilliant Uncirculated*, mintage to be announced at a later date, (the mintage figure of the 1975 BU coins is 63,000); and in *Proof* with only 45,000 to be issued.

The new coins will each be accompanied by an illustrated, colorful prospectus. Collectors may note, with great satisfaction, that the maximum mintage figures are considerably lower than last year's. The total orders received and paid for by November 15th will constitute the final quantity struck, even if these are lower than the maximum mintage announced.



## **FIVE MEDALS DISCONTINUED BY ISRAEL WITH MELT-DOWN OF UNSOLD INVENTORIES**

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation announced the discontinuance of the sale of five gold medals. Remaining inventories of these medals will be melted down. Dies will be broken in the presence of a public committee.

Final figures of the five medals in various sizes is shown below.

The data clarifies an assumption held by collectors as to actual quantities of these medals. It now appears that the final figures of some of the medals are considerably lower than assumed.

The decision taken by the IGC MC to discontinue the sale of these medals was based on the following: There has been an unprecedented demand for

these medals. Their price has been mounting in proportion to the issue price while IGC MC can sell only at issue price and cannot be involved in market competition.

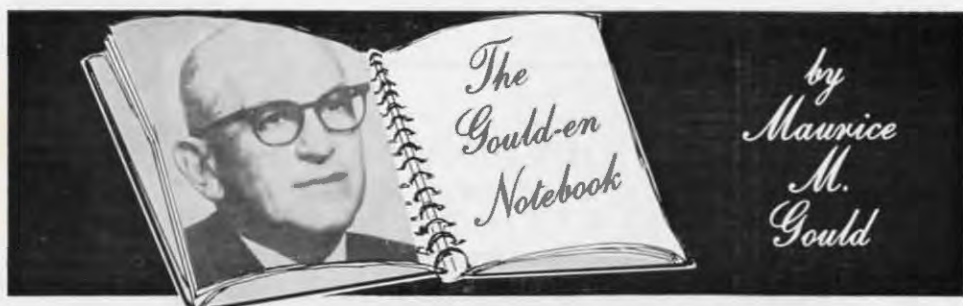
The IGC MC has announced the issue of the following new medals:

1) *Bar Mitzvah Medals* in 30mm, identical to the one issued in 1961 in 27, 22 and 19mm. However, without the inscription "Bar Mitzvah of the State of Israel."

2) *The Wedding Medal* which will be issued in both silver and gold. These new medals will be a perfect memento as gifts to newly wedded couples and to those celebrating wedding anniversaries.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Diameter</b>	<b>Quantity in Catalogue</b>	<b>Final Figure</b>
Bar Mitzvah	19 mm	40,000	6,660
Bar Mitzvah	22 mm	20,000	6,240
Bar Mitzvah	27 mm	10,000	9,690
Terra Sancta	35 mm	5,000	4,330
El Al	35 mm	2,000	1,940
Keren Hayessod	35 mm	1,740	1,648
Liberation	19 mm	5,000	1,355
Liberation	22 mm	5,000	1,360
Liberation	27 mm	5,000	1,320

**NOW IS THE TIME  
TO SEND IN YOUR 1976 AINA DUES**



Seldom are Hebrew characters used on coins, medals or tokens, except for those for the *State of Israel*. Some pieces issued in Poland at the end of the 12th century spelled out the ruler's name in Hebrew letters. Sweden, Denmark and German states and cities issued coins in the 17th century on which the word "*Jehovah*" was spelled out in Hebrew letters. These pieces are very difficult to locate today.

How many collectors know that there is a Civil War token issued when there was a shortage of hard money during the 1861-65 period of our country for "*Felix Dining Saloon, 256 Broadway, New York.*" On the reverse of this token the word "*Kosher*" appears in Hebrew.

Years ago, when I collected these tokens I would locate some of these pieces. In recent years, they seem to be more difficult to obtain as I am certain many have gone into Jewish-oriented collections and Judaica.

On the obverse of these tokens there is an Indian facing left, with 13 stars around it and the date "1863."

If any of the readers know of any other pieces along the same line, I would appreciate hearing from them.

In my visits to coin conventions throughout the United States, I have noted a great deal of interest in the coins of the Palestine Mandate. Both dealers and collectors have asked me about them, knowing of my involvement with the *Israel Numismatic Society* long before Israel became a state.

The banknotes of the *Palestine Currency Board*, which are so popular and desirable today, only had the occasional specialist such as Jack Fisher looking for them. I remember corre-

sponding with him about this series many years ago. Even though they were scarce, he took the opportunity to build up an important collection in this area. Today this paper money is difficult to obtain in decent condition and the prices have gone up considerably in a very short period.

Many of the Palestine coins saw a hard circulation and they do come in *Good* and *Very Good* condition. The sharper pieces are in demand and especially those that are *Uncirculated*. If the number of collectors keeps increasing, it will be just about impossible to make up a really nice *Uncirculated* set.

The 100 mil pieces are the high denomination. They were only issued for eight years and the highest mintage is 2 million 850,000 in 1935 and the lowest 200,000 in 1934. I suggest trying to get some of these pieces first as they are even popular with crown collectors of the world for their type sets, and very few dealers in the world have any worthwhile stocks of them.

Proofs were struck in 1927, 1931 and 1939 and these are of the highest rarity. A small number of proof sets were struck in 1927, the first year of issue and of course these are among the rarities and most sought-after of Palestinian numismatic material. Some of the proof sets were broken up over the years and it is difficult to tell how many actually are in existence.

Some of the smaller denominations can still be obtained very reasonably in up to *Extra Fine* condition. In *Uncirculated*, none of them are common as no large hoards were put away or have been found.

I recommend for fun and future increases in value the coinage of Palestine.



# The ALEPH BETH Page

## ...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



*Q. What is meant by fractional currency? R. Y., Atlanta, Ga.*

A. Fractional currency is an official government paper issue that is a fraction or part of the official base unit of the country. For example, in our country during the Civil War, paper money of 5c, 10c, 25c and 50c was issued due to the shortage of metal needed to make the coins. The unit was the U. S. dollar and any paper is—In 1948, in Israel, the first unit of less than \$1 was fractional currency. money was the pound. This was equal to 1000 mils. Therefore, any paper issue that was less than one pound was fractional currency. In Kagan, the 500 mils of 1948, listed as BN-1 (*Banknote No. 1*) is an error. It should be listed with the 50 mils FC-1 (*Fractional Currency No. 1*) and the 100 Mils FC-2 (*Fractional Currency No. 2*) and properly called FC-3. Under the pruta series that started in 1949 where 1000 Pruta was equal to 1 Libra, two issues of Fractional Currency went into circulation in February and March of 1952. They were the 50 and 100 Pruta paper issues which were withdrawn in 1954. In November 1953, a higher denomination, 250 Pruta, was issued and it is still being withdrawn from circulation. All of the foregoing fractional issues have varieties as to color, signatures, series letter, etc. and make a very interesting group for collecting.

*Q. Someone showed me a bronze coin that had on its reverse, a winged goddess writing on a shield that was attached to a palm tree and he said that it was a Judea Capta coin. I thought that all Judea Capta coins had to have IUDEA or IUDEA CAPTA on them. This coin had Greek let-*

*ters, not Latin. Is this a Judea piece? T. H., Berkley, Calif.*

A. It certainly is. These were part of a series of coins struck by Vespasian and Titus in Caesaria. The reverse type as you describe it was used by both. It shows Nike writing on a shield attached to a palm tree. The Greek words on this series are a legend which is the equivalent of IV-DAEA CAPTA, the Latin Legend.

*Q. When we discuss Ancient Jewish Coins, what historical period does this cover? W. L., Baltimore, Md.* L

A. Ancient Jewish coins cover a period of about 270 years, from John Hyrcanus (135-104 B. C.) to the end of the Bar Kochba War (135 C. E.). However, since it is assumed that John Hyrcanus I did not strike coins before 110 B. C., the period is probably limited to 250 years. This period is well defined now that all current evidence is rather conclusive that Simon Maccabee did not strike any coins.

*Q. I received a listing from a dealer in Israeli coins who offered Y-3, Y-22, Y-25, etc. What does this mean? M. A. S., N. Y. C.*

A. These are Yeoman numbers, assigned by Richard S. Yeoman in his *Modern World Coins*, 10th Edit. and carried forward in the 1974 *Standard Catalog of World Coins* by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler. The numbers were assigned as the coins were issued or changed. Watch for a conversion chart in *The Shekel* after the next issue of the Kagan reference book.

## THE GOOD SHIP VULCAN

by Dov Genachowski

This article was originally written while Israel received a massive "air-lift" of military equipment from the United States, to sustain its Yom Kippur war-effort. Somehow, this reminded me of a "sealift" of wheat and gold from the United States to Palestine during the *First World War*, to sustain the very livelihood of the small Jewish community — about 100,000 persons — in Turkish Palestine.

When, in 1913, President Wilson appointed Henry Morgenthau as U. S. Ambassador in Turkey, he told him:

"Everything you can do to help your brethren, will reflect upon the United States. You can be sure the Government will help you by all means at her disposal."

On the 6th of October 1914, the *U.S.S. North Carolina* called at Jaffa. On board was Morris Wertheim, Morgenthau's son in law, and \$50,000.00 for the *Jewish Emergency Committee*. Until the United States declared war on Turkey, \$1,250,000.00 was brought to the Committee on 12 different ships. But money was not enough. The Turks stripped the country of food. Hunger, together with epidemics, was decimating the Jewish community. A report by Capt. Decker of the *U.S.S. Tennessee* confirmed it in these words: "*a disaster might occur, unless fast measures be taken to avert it.*"

In December 1914, the *American Jewish Committee* decided to send a foodship for the Palestine Jews. The British Government objected to this breach in the blockade, being afraid that the food would fall into the hands of the Turkish Army and thus aid the

ועד המזלזת האמריקנית	
של האניה וולקן	
ירושלם.	
מספר	מור
שם	בתחילת המסדה מספר
שם	יתנו כנגד פקקה זו
אנוסות קמה	
תר"ה	מרה
שם היעד :	
נאם	נאם

enemy. It took some skillful negotiating to overcome the British objections.

The American freighter *Vulcan* reached Jaffa on May 20th, 1915. Here new problems arose. The Turks requested careful checking — by themselves — of the cargo. After long negotiations and discussions it was decided to share the food sent to Jews in Palestine by Jews in the United States with the Arabs: 55 percent to the Jews, 45 percent to the Arabs. In reality, the Jews received rather less than half. Some quantities were given as "Baksheesh", some was stolen by the Arab stevedores at Jaffa. Nevertheless, the *Vulcan* did save, in bleak 1915, the Jewish community — literally so.



*The "Vulcan" left an exonumatic memento behind. Cardboard, 62mm x 85mm, in Hebrew: "The American Supply Committee of the Ship Vulcan. Jerusalem. Line . . . Number . . . In Grocery shop No. . . . in the Quarter . . . will be given to . . . ounces of flour. Week of (according to the weekly reading of the Torah) . . . 5675. For the Committee: (Two signatures)."*

Jerusalem (which included the Judea area and Hebron), received, by

agreement within the Jewish community, 47 percent of the food. Two other committees were set up: one for Jaffa and the Jewish colonies, one for the north—Haifa, Saffad, Tiberias and colonies in Samaria and Galilee. The first received 26 per cent, the second 27 per cent, of the shipments. Whether these groups also issued such tokens, or used other means of distribution, is not now known.

## ANOTHER CHARITY TOKEN

by Y. Meshorer



Recently, several tokens of an hitherto unpublished type appeared on the local market. Investigations of the origin of these token brought to light that they have come, apparently, from the Jewish community of Aleppo (Haleb), Syria. They are actually bronze bracteates. Their description follows:

Geometrical design in the center apparently composed of an "O" and "H", the meaning of which is unknown to me. This design is flanked by two Hebrew letters: (Bet and Kaf), which would seem to stand for: "Bet Kneset" (synagogue). Surrounding the design, above and below, is the Hebrew inscription, a quotation from Isaiah 54:14, "In righteousness shalt thou be established . . ."

The numeral "101" in the center symbolizes the angel, Michael, an angel associated with charity. The numerical sum of the Hebrew letters for Michael equals "101".

This quotation brings to mind the special importance of charity to the people who paid for the tokens. They

were seemingly purchased by members of the community, and then distributed to the poor people who might then use them for acquiring food or lodging. The presence of this quotation on the token indicates how significant the commandment of charity was for the purchaser, since it was through the giving of charity that the donor became "established" as a good human being according to the divine commandment.

Already published are similar tokens from the old Jewish community in Jerusalem bearing the inscription (in Hebrew) "tzedakah" (charity), and Turkish coins with the countermark "tzela" (initials representing "tzedakah la'aniyim," charity for the poor), which also seem to have originated from Syria. There is also a Jerusalem square token with the inscription "tzedakah tatzil mimavet" (charity saves from death).

We believe that these tokens are either late 19th or early 20th century, probably struck during the end of the Turkish regime or slightly later.

# JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

## THE BIRTH OF A JUDAIC MEDAL



The newest medal issued by the *Jewish-American Hall of Fame* of the Judah Magnes Museum honors Gershom Mendes Seixas, "*The Patriotic Rabbi*." The reverse features the dramatic exodus of Seixas and his fellow congregants from the *Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue* in New York on August 4, 1776. They fled the city rather than remain under British rule. Mrs. Gerta Ries Wiener has modelled Rabbi Seixas on the left, carrying the holy *Torah* scrolls; three other Jewish patriots carry the *menorah* and synagogue records.

Mrs. Wiener's miniature masterpiece took many months of research and artistic judgments before it reached fruition. Fortunately, the New York artist saved her preliminary sketches, and this offers a unique opportunity to follow the development of a major medallic sculpture.

Only 500 pure silver and 1000 bronze *Gershom Mendes Seixas* medals will be issued, priced at \$39.50 and \$9.50 respectively. These may be ordered from AINA, an official distributor of the *Jewish-American Hall of Fame* medals, P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N. Y. 11365.



The first step was to determine the type of clothing, hair styles, etc. of the Revolutionary period.



A decision had to be made whether the *Gershom Mendes Seixas* medal would be round like the *Haym Salomon* medal or trapezoidal like the other five medals in the *Jewish-American Hall of Fame* series.





Here the menorah carrier is on the right and an inscription was being considered.



Here Seixas, carrying the Torah, is in the center.



Now Seixas is back on the left, but the menorah carrier has been moved to the middle as Mrs. Wiener searched for optimum design balance and dramatic effect.



This is similar to the final design. Note that the menorah has been reduced in size and Seixas' head is now tilted right. The man carrying the large record books has put on some weight.

For the sake of the design it was decided not to distract the viewer with any inscription. This is the final sculptured (plaster) model. The meticulous detailing is apparent throughout, especially in the Torah decorations. The two patriots in the foreground literally step out of the medal's surface, adding to the life-like presence of this 200 year old American Revolutionary scene.



## AINA'S GREATER NEW YORK CONVENTION BADGES

by Martin Morgenstern

Each year, the sponsored AINA convention issues a commemorative badge to honor this event.

The first year, the badge (*Figure 1*) consisted of a nameplate with a pin on the back. Below the plate was a white ribbon 42mm. wide with the words "Greater N. Y. Coin Convention, N. Y. Sheraton Hotel May 3, 4, 5, 6 1973" printed in blue. A gold ring connected the ribbon and the medal. The medal was 32mm in diameter with the legend lettered in gold spelling out "American Israel Numismatic Association." The field has, on the right side, the Statue of Liberty, in gold. On the left side is the Menorah, also in gold. The area is in white.

The symbol of *The City of New York* is the Statue of Liberty; consequently that is the symbolic meaning of the medal. The Menorah is the symbol of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. and therefore it was also used.

The second convention badge (*Figure 2*) employed the same medal; however, the ribbon was in blue with white lettering saying "Greater N. Y. Coin Convention N. Y. Sheraton Hotel May 2-3-4-5 1974."

The use of the same medal gives an opportunity to those who missed the first convention a further chance at obtaining a badge similar to the first.

*Cont. on page 32*





## NEW VARIANT OF A PRUTA COIN OF THE JEWISH WAR AGAINST ROME REPORTED

by Dr. R. D. Larisch, Tel-Aviv

There exists a new variant of the pruta coin of the Jewish War against Rome (*bellum judaicum*) 66-70 C.E. This coin resembles in manufacture, metal alloy, weight, artistic and paleographic style the regular coin, leaving no doubt that this coin variant was also struck in Jerusalem at the same mint (not a coin struck at Cesarea, Lit. Meshorer).

On the regular pruta coin of the year 2 — 67/68 C.E., *obverse*: amphora with wide brim, two handles and around inscription (Meshorer No. 153), the foot of the amphora consists of a rod and plate. The amphora and the chalice are very common and often used subjects on Jewish coins. They appear e.g. according to Meshorer: on coins No. 148-159, 163, 164, 166-169, 183, 190-192, 202 and 207, that is on 24 Jewish coins. Of the 17 coins of the First Jewish War against Rome, 14 coins have a design of an amphora or a chalice.

It may be of interest to the members of the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc. that on the sign of the A.I.N.A. there is a chalice with regular foot design.

### AMPHORA ON TRIPOD

There exists a variant of the pruta coin of the year 2 on which the foot of the amphora is not made of a single rod and plate but of a tripod (see drawing). The tripod foot begins almost at the bottom of the amphora and consists of three distinct rods of which



Regular



Variant

the outer two bars divert at an angle of 85°. Such a coin of the year two is in possession of the author. Its diameter is 17-18 mm and its weight is 2.28 grms.

Specimens of the pruta coin of the year 3 show a tripod foot. In the book of Kadman-Kindler for instance, *Coins of Palestine throughout the Ages* (in Hebrew) on plate 12 No. 26 one can see the illustration of a tripod foot. Therefore it may be assumed that the dies for the variant coin of the year 2 were made later than the dies for the regular coin, toward the end of the year 2 of the revolt and that the tripod design for the year 3 was then used.

I have not found in literature any remark of a specific distinction nor any mentioning of some variants in relation to a different kind of the amphora's foot. So the tripod design may be described as a new variant.

Thus there exist (in relation to the foot of the amphora) two kinds of the pruta coin of the year two:

- a) The regular coin
- b) The variant coin with the tripod foot.



## MEDALS OF KEREN HAYESOD —United Jewish Appeal

by Shmuel Matalon, Tel-Aviv

In 1960, a world convention of *Keren Hayesod* (Israel's United Jewish Appeal) took place in Jerusalem. A medal was issued on that occasion.

According to Mrs. Emmy Hermann, at the time head of the publicity department of *Keren Hayesod*, about 400 medals were struck. After issue, the demand was so great, another 400 were struck for a total of 800. The medals now rare, were issued with the names of the people who received them engraved on them.

The medal is quite heavy, about 110 grs., size 58 mms. The legend is in Hebrew, except for the words "*Keren Hayesod*" in English. It reads: *World Convention of Keren Hayesod —The United Jewish Appeal, Jerusalem, 30.12.60*; and the initials of *Keren Hayesod* in Hebrew and English appear on the reverse. Further details on this medal are not known since the archives of *Keren Hayesod* were destroyed ten years later.

Numismatists who are not major contributors to the *United Jewish Appeal* will be sorry when they read these lines. A beautiful medal was issued by the U. J. A., to be donated to contributors who will be brought in about 30 groups to Israel as guests of the U. J. A. during the 25th Anniversary of the State of Israel.

### MEDAL STRUCK IN THE UNITED STATES

The medal, designed by David Ismar, was struck in the U. S. of rhodium-plated bronze according to information given by Mr. Rafi Baram. The size is 55 mm, weight 65 grms and 3 mm thick. The legend depicts Theodore Herzl's "*If you will, it is no dream*"; on the reverse—*Israel's 25th Anniversary, 1948-1973*.





# The Beginning of the Hasmonean Coinage

Y. MESHORER

Israel Museum, Jerusalem

A MAJOR problem in Jewish numismatics is to decide who was the first Hasmonean ruler to mint coins. Ever since it was established that Simon Maccabaeus (141–135 B.C.) did not mint the 'thick' shekels, or any other coin,<sup>1</sup> most scholars have been inclined to assign the first Hasmonean minting to John Hyrcanus I (135–104 B.C.).<sup>2</sup> The main question is thus whether the coins bearing the legend יהוחנן הכהן הגדול וחבר היהודים (Jehoḥanan the High Priest and the *Hever* of the Jews) were minted by John Hyrcanus I or by John Hyrcanus II (63–40 B.C.). In the early stages of research, when the Hebrew name of Hyrcanus II had not yet been established, all the coins bearing the name Jehoḥanan were attributed to Hyrcanus I.<sup>3</sup> Kanael and Kindler, however, showed that many of the Jehoḥanan coins should be attributed to Hyrcanus II.<sup>4</sup>

In 1967 the present writer tried to prove that all the coins bearing the name of Jehoḥanan were struck under Hyrcanus II.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, I suggested that even the coins bearing the name of Yehuda were struck under Judas Aristobulus II (67–63 B.C.) and not under Aristobulus I (104/3 B.C.) as had formerly been assumed, thus concluding that Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 B.C.) was the first Hasmonean ruler who minted coins.<sup>6</sup>

Most of my arguments were deductions based on the available numismatic material, but I lacked sufficient data to enable me to prove my theory definitely. Recently, the Israel Museum was presented with a tiny coin found near Jerusalem which sheds new light on this problem. The description of the coin is as follows:

AE; 12 mm; 0.7752 gr (Pl. 9:B, C);

Obv. Head of Antiochus VIII to right, radiate.

<sup>1</sup> For a summary of the controversy and the evidence see L. Kadman: *The Coins of the Jewish War of 66–73 C.E.* (Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium), Jerusalem, 1960, pp. 42–71.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. A. Kindler: *The Coinage of the Hasmonaean Dynasty, The Dating and Meaning of the Ancient Jewish Coins and Symbols*, Jerusalem, 1958, pp. 10–28.

<sup>3</sup> E.L. Sukenik: A Hoard of Coins of John Hyrcanus, *Jewish Quarterly Review* N.S. 37 (1946/7), pp. 281–282. E. Merzbacher attributed all the coins of Jehoḥanan to John Hyrcanus II (*Zeitschrift für Numismatik* 3 [1876], pp. 201 ff.). Madden and de Saulcy attributed the small bronze coins with lily and palm-branch to John Hyrcanus II, see F. Madden: *Coins of the Jews*, London, 1881, p. 96, Nos. 1, 2; De Saulcy, *Numismatic Chronicle*, N. S. 11 (1871), p. 240, Nos. 44, 45.

<sup>4</sup> B. Kanael: The Greek Letters and Monograms on the Coins of Jehoḥanan the High Priest, *IEJ* 2 (1952), pp. 190–194. A. Kindler: Rare and Unpublished Hasmonaean Coins, *IEJ* 2 (1952), pp. 188–189.

<sup>5</sup> Y. Meshorer: *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period*, Tel Aviv, 1967, pp. 41–45.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 56–59.

Rev. Lily, in field to upper left, legend: BA; In field to upper right, date: LK (year 20)

(Israel Museum coin No. 1138)

This coin has apparently not yet been described in the numismatic literature. It can be identified as a coin of Antiochus VIII by its features and style, as well as by the fact that the date shows at least 20 regnal years. The inscription BA may correspond to *B(ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ) A(NTIOXOY)*. Identical abbreviations appear on certain coins of Ascalon struck under Antiochus IV.<sup>7</sup> The style of the coin shows that it is a late Seleucid issue, thus leaving Antiochus VIII the only candidate for this coin, as he alone ruled for 20 years (actually, 25 years, 121–96 B.C.). The normal dating system of the Seleucid coinage is according to the Seleucid era, beginning in 312 B.C. In one exceptional instance, however, the coins are dated according to the regnal years: these are the coins of Tryphon (142–139 B.C.) struck at Ascalon.<sup>8</sup> This system of dating, however, was the regular Ptolemaic practice and it is rather odd to find it on a Seleucid coin.

The reverse of our coin depicts the lily, a well-known design on Jewish coins and a very old and important floral design in Jewish art, possibly deriving from some ornamentations in the Temple in Jerusalem. On the first Jewish coins struck in Jerusalem in the Persian period (fourth century B.C.), the lily is a very characteristic design (see Pl. 9:E). It occurs also on numerous Hasmonean coins (see Pl. 9: I, K). The coins of Antiochus VII struck in Jerusalem bear the lily design,<sup>9</sup> and therefore one may assume that the coin described here, which also bears a lily, was struck in Jerusalem in the twentieth year of Antiochus VIII, i.e. 102 (or 106/5) B.C. In a letter dated 29 November, 1972, the late H. Seyrig wrote me his views on this new coin:

‘La monnaie avec BA — LK est toute nouvelle pour moi. Votre lecture de BA me semble certaine. La date, alors, ne peut être qu’une année régnale, 20. Mais quel roi a régné 20 ans? Je pense que c’est Antiochus VIII, dont la première année devait être 125/124, et la vingtième 106/105. La physionomie du droit convient très bien à ce roi. Le problème est donc un problème historique: quel était le status de Jérusalem en 106/105? Si mon explication est bonne, nous aurions là une prévue que la ville, en cette année-là, était au pouvoir du roi de Syrie, et la pièce aurait un grand intérêt historique.’

Seyrig thus agreed with this identification but suggested 125/124 B.C. as the beginning of the era on this coin, i.e. starting with the reign of Cleopatra and Antiochus VIII.

<sup>7</sup> M.E. Babelon: *Les rois de Syrie* . . ., Paris, 1890, p. 75, No. 579.

<sup>8</sup> P. Gardner: *A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum, The Seleucid Kings of Syria*, London, 1878, pp. 68–69, Nos. 1, 16.

<sup>9</sup> See Pl. 9: F–G. This type is known with three different dates during the years 180–183 of the Seleucid era, i.e. 131/0–129/8 B.C. *BMC*, p. 75, No. 69. M. Narkis: *Coins of Palestine II*, Jerusalem, 1938, p. 127, No. 164 (Hebrew). According to Narkis even Antiochus IX struck coins in Jerusalem, see *ibid.*, No. 165.



While Seyrig's conclusion rules out the possibility that John Hyrcanus I minted any coins (unless one ascribes some coins to the very last months of his life) it does not rule out the possibility that Judas Aristobulus I was the first Hasmonean ruler who minted coins. If one accepts the era starting in 121 B.C., however, it follows that in 102 B.C. the mint of Jerusalem still struck Seleucid coins. This would prove the theory suggested in 1967 that Hyrcanus I (135–104 B.C.) as well as Aristobulus I (104/3 B.C.) did not mint coins and that Alexander Jannaeus was the first Hasmonean who minted coins, starting after 102 B.C.<sup>10</sup>

If this conclusion is correct then one may assume that Jannaeus' first coins were those tiny and rare ones (Pl. 9: H–I) which were struck in Jerusalem toward the very end of the second century B.C. or the beginning of the first century B.C. (after the death of Antiochus VIII?). Their denomination as well as the shape of the lily are identical with the coin described here, but instead of the ruler's head, Jannaeus' coins bear his name and title together with the Jewish symbol of the palm branch.



D-E: Coin of the Persian period. Obv., falcon; rev., lily. (H. Besin collection, Israel Museum; scale 2:1).



J-K: Alexander Jannaeus. Obv., anchor; rev., lily.



F-G: Antiochus VII. Obv., anchor; rev., lily; date: 183=129 B.C.



H-I: Alexander Jannaeus. Obv., palm branch; rev., lily.



B.C.: The new Antiochus VIII coin, Israel Museum (scale 2:1).

<sup>10</sup> M. Narkis, *op. cit.* (above, n. 9), p. 139, No. 197 d, published a silver tetradrachm of Antiochus VIII struck at Ascalon, also bearing the date LK. Narkis suggests that this date corresponds to 101/100 B.C., according to the beginning of the reign of Antiochus VIII in 121 B.C. Unfortunately, H. Seyrig passed away a short time after I received his letter, so I do not know why he preferred 125 as the era of our coin. We intend, however, to begin counting the regnal year of Antiochus VIII as 121 B.C., when he was the sole king.

## COINS AND CURRENCY

**JUDEA CAPTA COINS AND LATER ISSUES OF THE ROMAN ADMINISTRATION.** After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E., Palestine became a separate administrative unit called *provincia Judaea*. The Flavian emperors appointed a *legatus pro praetore* as head of the local administration and he was also the commander of the military forces stationed in the province. During the reigns of Vespasian (69-79 C.E.) and Titus (79-81 C.E.) the coins issued refer in their types and legends to the Roman victory; the legends are the Greek equivalent to the well-known legend *Judaea Capta*. Under Domitian (81-96 C.E.) four series of coins were issued, which do not refer to the victory over the Jews, but to Domitian's victories in Germany and Britain. All but the last two coins types of Domitian are undated and their chronological order was conjectural until recently.

**THE PALESTINIAN CITY COINS.** The following cities in Palestine proper struck coin in antiquity: \*Aelia Capitolina (Roman Jerusalem), Anthedon, Antipatris, Ashkelon, Caesarea Maritima, Diospolis, Eleutheropolis, Gaza, Joppa (Jaffa), Neapolis (Shechem), Nicopolis-Emmaus, Nysa-Scythopolis, Raphia, Sepphoris-Diocaesarea, and Tiberias. Other cities beyond the border of ancient Palestine struck coins as well, such as Dora and Ptolemais (then part of Phoenicia), and the following cities in Transjordan: Abila, Dium, Gadara, Gerasa, Hipps, Kanatha, Kapitolias, Panias, Pella, Petra, Philadelphia, and Rabbath-Moab. Older cities which struck coins were Ashkelon, whose era began in 104/3 B.C.E., and Gaza, whose era began in 61/60 B.C.E. The era beginning between 64 and 60 B.C.E., which was adopted by many of the above cities, refers to Gabinius' invasion of the

Hasmonean kingdom under Pompey, when many cities became independent, especially the so-called \*Decapolis in the northeast. The coin types are numerous. City coins issued under Roman rule customarily had the head of the emperor on the obverse while the reverse bore images referring to the city, such as temples built there, the gods worshiped by their inhabitants, and military garrisons, stationed in them. The legends frequently indicated the status of the city within the Roman empire, such as *colonia*, autonomous, etc. The archaeological finds suggest that the circulation of these coins was not restricted to the city by which they were issued, but was countrywide. In some cases (Ashkelon, Gaza Neapolis, Sepphoris, and Tiberias) the money systems consisted of three or more denominations. Their equivalency with the Roman coin system cannot be ascertained. All these coins are of bronze. The only city in Palestine that issued an autonomous silver coinage was Ashkelon (between 51 and 30 B.C.E.)—coins bearing portraits of Ptolemy XIV, Ptolemy VX, and Cleopatra VII. The city coinage came to an end in about 260 3.5. when it became known that the value of the metal was greater than their nominal value. It was then replaced by debased Roman imperial coins. [A.KI.]

### Are You Publicity Director For Your INS?

Is news of your club missing from this or a past issue of *The Shekel*? Most stories of club activities are based on club newsletters or stories on club activities sent to the Editor. Your letters and articles are welcomed.



## AINA MEMBERS TO GET SPECIAL MEDAL STRUCK IN ISRAEL BY IGCAM

Collectors who renew their membership in the American Israel Numismatic Association for 1976, as well as *new members* who join the organization, will receive a special 30mm cupro-nickel medal. According to A.I.N.A. President, Morris Bram, the new medal will be given exclusively to A.I.N.A. members, one each, and only the exact quantity required for the membership will be struck.

The medal is struck for A.I.N.A. by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, and depicts, on the obverse, the same design as the Corporation's 1976 greetings medal stylized *Star of David*, multiplying in silhouettes. The reverse carries the A.I.N.A. emblem, the organization's name and the years (1976-5736) the latter in Hebrew.

This is the fourth in a series of annual medals issued by A.I.N.A. and given out to its members. Yearly membership dues in A.I.N.A. is \$8.00 and includes four quarterly issues of the numismatic magazine *The Shekel*, plus offerings of new issues of Israel's Coins and Medals.

For further information, write to A.I.N.A., P.O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N. Y. 11365.

For photo of medal, see The President's Message in this issue of "The Shekel."

## A CHANUKAH GELT TOKEN OF 1949

by Eli Semmelman

The *Ha'aretz Daily* of Tel Aviv published on July 14, 1975 an article which told that a certain Mr. Joel Levi of Arad found a coin in his sugar pot together with other coins. The coin is of bronze and it looks exactly like a 100 prutoth 1949; on the obverse, written in English: *Chanukah Gelt*.

Mr. Levy was questioned by the police: *where did he get the coin?* He asked at the Bank of Israel, and also our dear friend Mr. Zedakah; but nobody knew about the coin. In fact, everyone thought it to be a very rare coin. Mr. Levy began to think what he would do with the half-million liroth he might surely get for the coin.

I wrote a letter to the Editor which was published on the 28th of July telling the poor fellow the coin he thought so rare was a *Chanukah Gelt* token which was probably minted in the U. S. and I wished him all the best (*that the Lord will send blessing unto him*).

How did I come to think the token was from the U. S.? About 15 years ago, I was offered a token like this. I was told then by the seller that it was issued by a Jewish community in the U. S. I refused to buy it for it was too costly at the time.

If I bought it, I could take today 500,000 inflation liroth for it. If anybody knows the story behind this token, I will be grateful to learn of it. Please write to me at *The Shekel*.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

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\$100.00 per person.



# DIE VARIETIES ON 1971 FREEDOM COMMEMORATIVE

by Philip Sperber

Three distinct die varieties of the 1971 Freedom Commemorative in B.U. were recently shown at a meeting of the Westchester Israel Numismatic Society. These are in addition to the two die varieties of the Proof coins of the same issue, recently described by Sylvia Haffner (see article elsewhere in this issue). The article by Mrs. Haffner stated that one of the Proof varieties was quite rare, with only 60 to 80 pieces being minted. Spurred by this knowledge, a re-exam-

ination of the coins in our collection was made. We were unsuccessful in finding the rare Proof variety, but the search turned up three varieties of the B.U. coins!

All of the B.U. coins bear the mint mark of the Jerusalem mint, so it is not possible to call them by any name other than Types I, II, and III. (It also prevents any ready explanation for the die differences.) A listing of the differences of each type is as follows:

	Type I	Type II	Type III
Legend	Close to rim	Away from rim	Away from rim
Denomination	Close to rim	Away from rim	Away from rim
Mint Mark	Close to rim	Away from rim	Away from rim
Mint Mark	With lumps at points	Flat outline	Flat outline
Shield	10.5mm wide	10.5mm wide	10.0mm wide
Shield Rim	Raised rim	Raised rim	No rim
Planchet Thickness	2.5mm	2.5mm	2.8mm
Surface		Flat	Concave
Numeral 1	Flat	Lower & flat	Lower & flat
Lettering	Higher & rounded		

Most of the differences described above are similar to those previously discovered on the Proofs. However, the differences concerning the absence of a shield rim on Type III and the numeral "1" in Type I were not noted in the description of the Proof varieties.

At this time there are no explana-

tion for the varieties and no census on the relative rarity of each type. Inquiries are being made of Jerusalem to see what light they can shed. The author would also like to hear from individuals or clubs who have a significant number of coins as to the number or proportions of each type.

## MORRIS BRAM ASKS:

*"Will you send a book on coins today?"*

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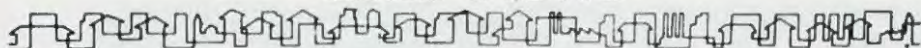
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# Club News



## FALL NEWS OF INS CLUBS EVERYWHERE

WELCOME to the Newest of the New! AINA greets the just-created INS of Northern New Jersey, meeting on the 2nd Wed. of each month at the Ft. Lee Jewish Center. We salute President Pro-Tem Peter Moss; V. P. Pro-Tem Robert S. Webber; Sec'y. Pro-Tem Shelley Moss; and Treas. Pro-Tem Dr. Alvin D. Yasuna. The new group extends AINA membership benefits to Jerseyites on the other side of the George Washington Bridge from N. Y. C.

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS THIS FALL IN THE CLUBS

MIAMIANS PLAN AINA DAY IN JANUARY AT INTERNATIONAL MID-WINTER CONVENTION. Planning to be in Miami during January? There'll be an AINA DAY (January 11) in connection with the convention, Jan. 8-11. Convention HQ is the Hotel Deauville, advises Ed Schuman. Following a 10:00 A. M. meeting to be addressed by INS of Miami president Sid Olson, you'll be a guest of the club and AINA for lunch. For a reservation, write S. L. Olson, 5700 Collins Ave., M.B., Fla. 33140. The INSformer of the *INS of Tidewater, Va.* beckoned to members to show up for meetings with the promise of coin games, a free dues drawing, an auction, a raffle, refreshments . . . and also an educational program provided by AINA on the 10-pound commemorative. (We called President Milton Becker to make sure that they really do all this: "yes", he says, "and in a meeting that lasts under two hours!") CLEVELAND HEARS PRIZEWINNER YULISH: The October meeting of the *INS of Cleveland* heard Stanley Yulish who presented his Best of Show (*Greater NY Coin Show, May 1975*) program: *Numismatic Reflections of Ghetto Lodz*. The September meeting heard *INS of Michigan* club secretary, Rev. Jim Missildine, speak to the Ohioans on his favorite trio: *Israel's Coins and Stamps, Judaica and Photography*. 1976 officers for the group are Ray Nolan, Pres.; Milt Shapiro, V. P.; Bill Berkman, Sec'y.; and Ed Murphy, Treasurer. MARYLANDERS HEAR LEADING JOURNALIST: Mr. Joseph Weinstein, a leading writer for the *Baltimore Jewish Times* was guest speaker at the October meeting of the *INS of Maryland*. The group's 1976 leadership includes Ben Fishman, Pres.; Barry Fox, V. P.; Shep Silverman, Treas.; and Abe Yaker, Sec'y. A Chanukah party was planned by the group for the December meeting.

LOS ANGELES SEES BLUE-AND-WHITE ELEPHANTS: The annual *Blue and White Auction* was the featured activity of the October meeting of the *Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles*, with the membership invited to bring "anything of value", and also anything numismatic, for an auction with ALL proceeds to the club, reported Acting President Ben Abelson. The September meeting heard the group's 1st Vice President, Emanuel Day speak on; *Israel Report* (comments on his recent visit to Israel; a mini-talk was given then by Milton Fishgold on "*The First Liberation Medal*"). WASHINGTON GROUP BECOMES EXPERT ON EGYPT: *Egyptian Currency during the British Mandate, 1914-1927* was the subject of the first Fall meeting of the *INS of Wash., D. C.* with expert Anthony Pisciotta, collector for over twenty years explaining the background for understanding Palestine currency. QUEENS GRIPPED BY AUCTION FEVER: Editor David Schaeffer of the *INS of Queens (N. Y.)* called one-and-all to the October auction on behalf of the event's committee: Irving Mandelbaum, Sam Gerber, Eli Tesser and Bob Lane. The group saw the program prepared by the West Coast Abelson family on the 10-pound Commemoratives at the September



## INS N. J. INSTALLS 1975-76 OFFICERS



The Inaugural Dinner of the INSNJ was held at The Mayfair Farms, West Orange, N.J. on September 17. 45 members attended this delightful affair co-chaired by Florence Farb and Laura Rosenblum. The guests for the evening were Morris Bram, who installed the officers and Sylvia and Manny Haffner. Sylvia Haffner spoke on the subject: *"Investment Values of Israel Coins."*

The new officers from left to right:  
Front Row: Milton Gottlieb, 1st

Vice-Pres.; Rowena Finke, Trustee; Florence Farb, Trustee; Dr. Harold Grubin, Pres.; Morris Bram; Laura Rosenblum. Corr. Sec'y; Margaret E. Moore, Rec. Sec'y.

2nd Row: Howard Finke, Trustee; Louis Suskind, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Sol Riveles, Trustee; Walter D. Moore, Jr., Treas.; Zoltan Husth, Sergeant-At-Arms; William Miller, Trustee; Carl Rosenblum, Trustee; Sid Moskowitz, out-going Pres.; Peter Moss, Trustee.

### CLUB NEWS *Continued*

meeting. **SAN GABRIELITES (CALIF.) PLANT A NICE IDEA:** This active INS group is already at work getting set for the coming *Holy Land Show*, a joint activity of three enthusiastic West Coast INS groups (San Gabriel, Orange County and San Fernando) but they took time to say thank you to visitors-from-the East (Morris and Lena Bram) by planting two trees in their honor at the AINA Forest outside Jerusalem. **DID YOU KNOW:** that a member of the *INS of Illinois*, Stewart Koppel, placed

"first" at the *American Numismatic Assn. Convention* in August with his exhibit of Israel's Gold Coins? **BROOKLYN SCORES WITH HEADLINE MAKER LEVENTHAL:** the first INS in the world to hear the first-hand experience of Mort Leventhal who found the Hadrian statue while "coin shooting" in Israel was . . . the *INS of Brooklyn!* Mort, Secretary of the *INS of New York* described his searches in Israel which began in 1964. **AND NOW, A BLIND AUCTION:** at the *INS of*



## TRANSPORTATION COLLECTORS *Continued*



Figure 12

One does not need to have to have hundreds of different tickets to enjoy a collection. *Figure 11* are the reverse of several 20-ride tickets, as well as the obverse of same. You'll notice that most of the cancellation punches are different.

One way I have been trying to collect is the variety of different cancellations on the same ticket type. The 25 and 30 agorot ticket of the *Egged* are the most common and so are some others. Try it with *Egged* or *Dan* or *Railway* tickets. Just imagine if *Egged* had, say, a 1000 drivers, each with a different cancel or puncher; and there were 100 different tickets. If you were

### CLUB NEWS *Continued*

*San Fernando (Calif.)* where the October meeting had donors present closed packages (marked "Lady" or "Man") with a minimum value of \$2.00. All proceeds went to the club (which uses the \$\$\$ to purchase better door prizes so more people will come to the future meetings to donate items for auctions to raise \$\$\$\$ for better door prizes so more people, etc., etc.) The group plans a Jan. installation at the *Skytrails Restaurant* with choice of steak or fish for \$6.50. (They may be eating New York cuts—but they sure ain't paying New York prices!!!) THE WEST COAST'S YOUNGEST INS IS FIRST WITH A MEDALLION: With *INS of Orange County (Calif.)* members sharing the

able to get one of each ticket, each with a different punch, you'd have 100,000 tickets.

The tickets (*Figure 12*) were left for last. They too are a part of Israel transportation: the Arab bus companies. I have no information on these but one day hope to. Only a few are shown of the many known to be in use. Interesting is the phrase on some: "Keep for control." Was this put there for the bus drivers to control; or as an aspect of Israel security?

Though I have managed to collect many tickets, passes, other items and books on the Israel transportation, I believe I have only scratched the surface of this subject. If you know of, or have any information or whatever, I would like to hear about it—Please write to me at *The Shekel*.

## BOUND VOLUMES OF THE SHEKEL

Volume IV will be ready shortly containing all issues of 1974 and 1975.

Send \$10.00 for each volume ordered; \$40.00 for set of four, post-paid.

AINA, P. O. Box 499,  
Fresh Meadows Sta.,  
Flushing, N. Y. 11365  
(N. Y. Residents, add Sales Tax)

design credits (Larry Tapper, Reverse; and Ed McClung, Obverse), this one-year old INS is the first out West to execute its own medallion. The producer, Ed McClung of Medallions Unlimited donated 100 to the INSOC club so all sales will benefit the group's treasury; the medallions have been priced at \$1.50 each. WESTCHESTER HEARS ABOUT MASONRY IN ISRAEL. Not construction, but constructive Masonry (the fraternal group kind) was the theme of a recent presentation at the *INS of Westchester (N.Y.)* by the group's president, Phil Sperber, who spoke of medals issued by Masonic Lodges of Israel to commemorate new Lodges, anniversaries and new buildings.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

multiplying in Silhouettes. The reverse carries the A.I.N.A. emblem, the organization's name and the years 1976-5736 the latter in Hebrew.



This is the fourth in a series of annual medals issued by A.I.N.A. and given out to its members.

Those who will be on the AINA *8th Annual Study Tour to Israel*. This year is different; never before have we been able to include flying from Haifa to Eilat, the harbor at Israel's tropical south. Inland we'll visit such historic sites as the Timna Copper Mines and we'll even go to sea in a glass-bottom boat at a nature reserve. You'll find the details of the March 11-25 tour elsewhere in *The Shekel* and in complete detail in a brochure you may request. \$100.00 per person establishes a reservation now; the trip cost (including deluxe accommodations, tours, two meals a day, etc. is \$1,099. — really a bargain. I'll be leading the tour. Join us.

Here's another idea you might like to think about for a minute before you act. Would you help me to build a AINA library? We have matured to a point where scholars ask us for the information relating to our field of expertise and this information is best kept and organized in books, not in what you remember or will guess at. If you will send a book from your shelf, and if I add one from mine, that's not TWO books . . . *that's thousands*. We could have an instant AINA Library. Your book could permanently have your name in it as the donor. In years to come, you will be aiding the growth of the science and culture in our numismatic hobby. Perhaps you will even wish to have your entire personal numismatic library donated to AINA in your memory. Wouldn't you like that?

*You would?* Prove it. Send a book on any numismatic subject, not necessarily on Judaica — today.

Finally, Miami will be the scene of a major international convention of numismatists from Jan. 8 to 11. We are planning an AINA Day on Jan. 11 and will look forward to greeting you there.

Shalom,  
Morris Bram  
President

## AINA CONVENTION BADGES

The 1975 medal (*Figure 3*) has the nameplate used in prior years. The ribbon is gold with blue printing: "*3rd Annual Greater New York Coin Convention May 1-4, 1975, New York Sheraton*". The medal is 33.5mm in diameter. The design is the AINA symbol with the letters in gold. The field surrounding the coin and AINA is blue. The field surrounding the American Israel Numismatic Association is white.

Some of the more imaginative AINA members cut around the AINA shield and soldered a pin to the back to create a unique tie-tac (or lapel pin). This is the only badge of the three to

date that can serve this multiple function.

## STILL AVAILABLE TO COLLECTORS

Since some AINA members were unable to attend the 1975 convention, Mr. Morris Bram advises that there are a few available for \$3.00 (plus a \$1.00 charge for postage and handling) at: AINA P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows, Flushing, N. Y. 11365.

In future years, advance orders for the badge will be made available to members unable to attend the convention, advises Mr. Bram.





*Left to right: N. H. Hacohen, Israel Govt. Coins and Medals Corp.; Morris Bram, President of AINA; and Pinchas Alroy, President of the Bank Hapoalim B. M., New York City.*

## ISRAEL'S FINEST COLLECTION OF COINS AND STATE MEDALS STARTS LONG STAY AT MAJOR BANKING CENTER IN MIDTOWN NEW YORK

**Bank Hapoalim — 10 Rockefeller Plaza**

*Left to right: Pinchas Alroy, President, Bank Hapoalim B. M., New York City; Clifford Mishler, publisher of Numismatic News Weekly; and Morris Bram, President of AINA.*



# **AINA EXECUTIVES MEET AT MAJOR DISPLAY OF ISRAEL'S COINS AND MEDALS at Bank Hapoalim, New York City**



**BRAM, HAFFNER AND AINA BOARD MEMBERS AT MAJOR  
 NUMISMATIC DISPLAY**

A number of America's best-known numismatists and leaders of the American Israel Numismatic Association joined with executives of the IGCAM and Bank Hapoalim on the opening of one of the largest displays of Israel's coins and medals ever assembled in the U. S.

Specimens of every Israel commemorative piece, including the half-shekel, one, five and 10-pound pieces, the more recent 5-pound denomination and all gold commemorative pieces are featured in the display. All coins are the property of the IGCAM and have been loaned for display only at Bank Hapoalim for the next few years.

*Photo center: well-known numismatic authority Sylvia Haffner and Morris Bram, President of AINA. From l. to r., front row: Moe Weinschel, Nat Sobel, Sylvia Haffner, Morris Bram, Irving Kagan; rear: N. H. Hacohen, Ed Janis and Robert Messing.*